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 00 00 1 1 2 2 10406 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44104.
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WORDS FROM THE CHIEF

This is the first stencil that I've typed on this typewriter so any errors are due to the new machine. I apologize for the lateness of this issue. This past spring has been my last semester at college and a lot of unexpected things happened. However, publishing should be more regular from now on. In July I will be getting my own mimeograph which should help. Also, my time schedule is freer than in the past. I appreciate your patience in putting up with the delays which have occurred this past year.

Only 17 sheets were returned from the last issue which was a little discouraging. I hope that once regular publishing begins, the number of responses will increase. The vote for the new name passes with 10 Yes, 5 No, and 28 No Opinion. Confidence vote for the Chief was 8 Yes, 4 No, and 31 No Opinion. All those voting against the new name were wondering why this new name was necessary. Reason, Don Miller dropped us out of the N3FGB when he reorganized that group last winter. We were the only active Division, so he decided to drop the Division structure as an unnecessary part of the N3FGB. Now we are no longer affiliated with the N3FGB and can not call ourselves part of that group. I thought that most of the members of the DD also received the N3FGB Gamesletter which announced this change in January. You would have gotten this explanation last time, if I had known it was needed.

Please note the following changes of address:

Don Turnbull, 13 Gilmerton Court, Trumpington Road, Cambridge CB2 2HQ ENGLAND
 Ray Bowers, 625 Evans, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122
 Jeff Key, 7918 Alpha Road, Apt. 1153, Dallas, Texas 75240
 Len Lakofka, 4970 N. Marine Dr., Apt. 525, Chicago, Ill. 60640
 Larry Peery, Box 8416, San Diego, California 92102
 Rod Walker, 4719 Telton St., San Diego, California 92116
 Buddy Tretick, 11710 Coldstream Dr., Potomac, Maryland 20854
 Lew Pulsipher, 423 N. Main St., Bellevue, Michigan 49021
 Charles Welsh, 6917 Cherry Lane, Annandale, Virginia 22003
 Peter Ansoff, Box 5798 Station B, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. 37203

The following are new members:

Mark Weidmark, 528 Park Crescent, Pickering, Ontario, CANADA
 Fred Davis, Jr., 5307 Carriage Ct., Baltimore, Maryland 21229
 Richard Vedder, 11940 Adorno Place, San Diego, California 92128

Comments begin on page 2. There aren't very many so they will all be printed in this issue. My general impression is that the members replying agree with Lew's proposal, but have some doubts about how the Committee would operate. Most of those replying offered specific changes and suggestions. Several new proposals are also being offered for consideration. On to page 2.....

O P I N I O N S & P R O P O S A L S

Hartley Patterson, 7 Cambridge Rd., Beaconsfield, Bucks, ENGLAND; March 2, 1972

On Conventions - Lew's proposals seem a perfect opportunity for feuds and factionalism. SF fandom has faced similar problems in the past. The system at present in operation for the WorldCon is as follows:

There are three zones (East/Central/South) which rotate the WorldCon between them. In any year a foreign bidder may try for the Con, but the Con may not leave North America two years in succession. Bids are voted on at the business meeting of the World SF Society, which exists for air charter purposes and meets at the WorldCon. Bids are made TWO years in advance, and must be confirmed the following year.

Diplomacy fandom is probably too small as yet for this. In the UK the annual SF convention is held at Easter, and bids are made ONE year ahead. The chairman of the meeting at which bidding takes place is by custom the chairman of the British SF Association AGM, which proceeds the bidding meeting. It has always been understood that the BSFA will organize a Convention if no bidders should appear.

I suggest (1) that the DD should set out a series of guidelines on how a Convention should be run (2) That it offer to sponsor the Convention. This latter would involve on the one hand DD members publicising the Convention in their 'zines, and on the other the Con Committees including at least one DD member who would act as liaison officer and ensure that the Con is run properly. This is the system that has been used in the UK; it seems to work.

For the DD to run the Cons (as Lew seems to be suggesting would be wrong. In the UK for various reasons a number of people are opposed to the BSFA. In the USA as I understand it a number of people are opposed to the DD. Would John Boardman support a Con controlled by the DD?

Bob Johnson, P.O. Box 134, Whippany, N.J. 07981; March 1972

Either a broadbased Org should have the DipCon duty or else an ad hoc group should be formed each year. I propose that we have a written set of by-laws.

Stephen Marsland, 78 Genesee St., Greene, N.Y. 13778; March 1972

I propose the following:

- 1.) A standard code for dealing with a player's country once he has dropped out with an acceptable alternative to substitute players in case they cannot be found.
- 2.) A way of guaranteeing substitute players to all GM's everywhere rather than the alternative mentioned in (1) above.
- 3.) One standard publication which will give clear, unbiased information on what's going on rather than personal views on someone else's stupidity, pig-headed opinions, ignorance, etc. ad nauseum.
- 4.) That we move immediately on Lew's proposals and get down to writing the final draft.
- 5.) That we update PONTEVEDRIA, bring in more information (I didn't get very much out of mine) and make it a "Congress" activity rather than Rod Walker's.
- 6.) That a standard set of House-rules be set up and included in PONTEVEDRIA, then GM's could make minor adjustments for their own 'zines rather than do it all themselves.
- 7.) That the Congress set up or adopt a rating 'zine which the members would use and adhere to.
- 8.) That comments and proposals no longer be limited.

MORE OPINIONS & PROPOSALS

Len Lakofka, (address on page 1); March 1972

Both the "NewOrg" and PDC have now shown interest in DipCon sites. Once the "NewOrg" is established, its wider base of membership could vote on the recommendations of the PDC vote (or committee). All bids should, of course, be Public and Printed Prior to a vote on the final site. DIPLOCON V does plan seminars and business meetings as part of its internal business. We hope to hold business meetings on Saturday evening from 8pm-midnight.

Walt Buchanan, R.R. #3, Lebanon, Indiana 46052; February 25, 1972

If this group isn't going to die on the vine, we've got to start doing something. Discussion is fine, but action is better. For starters I propose that we initiate some sort of procedure to standardize everyone's House-rules as much as possible. In fact, once a standard set is adopted, I propose that their use be made a requirement for membership. The result would be a big service to all players.

Rod Walker, (address on page 1); February 26, 1972

Lew Pulsipher's proposal is important and vital. My proposal to establish an independent commission has fallen on stoney ground. It is therefore necessary for the PDC to take action. Once the new Diplomacy Organization is operational, we should discuss with them a coöperativs arrangement, whereby that group (representing players) and ours (representing Gamesmasters and others) will each have a ~~xxx~~ voice in site selection. Enclosed is a map with the suggested boundaries per Lew's suggestion(and including Canada). The boundaries are about what anyone might draw, except that Virginia is in the East in order to clarify the position of Washington, D.C. I propose we vote on creating this Commission each year, authorizing Lew to draw up a final plan which we can then accept or reject by vote. As a separate proposal, I suggest we do not require the Convention to be in a different area each year, but establish this as a guideline to be followed where possible, and a standard rotation of areas for each 5-year period (e.g., West-Midwest-East-South-Canada). I request a vote on wheither this is to be a requirement or a guideline. I do not believe that our plan for a commission need rest on the approval or disapproval of the people at DipCon V. In fact, the commission should be active long before then, working on a site for DipCon VI (in the East if my rota proposal is adopted), so that when DipCon V convenes, the site of DipCon VI is already known. As Lew points out, most of the people who organize Diplomacy activities are members of the PDC. It is not a question of who has the "right" to do this, but who is in a position to do it. Let's go ahead. If what we do is fiar and equitable, we will perhaps get complaints from those concerned with power politics and personal aggrandizement, but none from those with the good of Diplomacy at heart.

Buddy Tretick, (address on page 1); March 2, 1972

Comment to the Chief; Please advise if there will be any attempt to require members of the PDC to conform to a specific set of rules or procedures.

/* Buddy, see Walt's and Stephen's proposals in this issue. */

I agree that a committee should be established, consisting of volunteers, to choose the site and plan other activities of DipCon.V. However, since Len has possibly laid some ground work in this area, he should be invited to work, but not head, such a committee, and that ~~tht~~ the committee should coördinate with Len's initial efforts.

/* Tony here. I feel that this is an unreasonable proposal, even if it could have been adopted when proposed. At this time it is even more ridiculous. */

Buddy Tretick's comments continued:

Isn't it interesting that a site for DipCons is usually chosen to be That city
in which lives the person choosing the site. /* So what's wrong with that, */

Richard Vedder, (address on page 1); March 27, 1972

I agree with Lew's proposal---the present system is definitely fly-by-night, but I am a little confused as to the role and vote of the permanent chairman. Is this official to be somehow elected by the commission from amongst its members or chosen by lot from the same? Or should the chairman be chosen from outside the commission? I would like to suggest that the chairman be selected from outside the commission (so as to have a tie-breaking vote, but no other voting powers, ala the role of the Vice-President as President of the US Senate). The method to be used follows: each of the four geographic regions has a slate of candidates (all volunteers, of course!) from whom two reps shall be elected to serve on the commission. Before this election takes place, one of the candidates from the region where the year's convention is to be held is selected by lot or vote to act as the year's chairman of the commission. The commission would be composed of three members from the convention region (one the chairman) and two from each of the other regions. Of course, there is the problem of insuring that all the volunteers are competent to serve; if the eligibility is restricted to members of this organization, this would, hopefully, reduce or eliminate the problem. There would be no limit on the number of times a person could volunteer, and if need be, this whole system could be modified to allow terms of office for the members of the commission to be longer than one year. The chairman would still be limited to a one year term of office.

The following is a listing of the states within their respective regions as proposed by Rod Walker on page 3.

W E S T

Wash., Ore., Cal., Nev., Ida., Mont., Wyo., Utah, Colo., Ariz., N.Mex.

M I D W E S T

N.Dak., S.Dak., Neb., Kan., Mo., Iowa, Minn., Wisc., Ill., Ind., Mich., Ohio

E A S T

Pa., W.Vir., Vir., Md., D.C., N.J., Del., N.Y., ~~XXXX~~ Vt., N.H., Mass., Me., Conn., R.I.

S O U T H

Tx., Ok., Ark., Lo., Miss., Ala., Fla., Ge., S.C., N.C., Tenn., Ksn.

C A N A D A

all the Canadian provinces would form this one region.

There is a proposal that didn't get into the last issue on the subject of granting a life membership in the PDC to Mr. John R. Moot, President of Games Research, Inc. Mr. Moot has been instrumental in seeing to the publication of a new rulebook, did his utmost to provide a forum for the expression of Postal Diplomacy's ideas on the various drafts, helped coordinate the work involved, and so on. He has also made available first copies of the Rulebook to postal GM's. He has helped foster Diplomacy by printing and inserting a flyer on the subject which the Division first suggested and authored.

A C T I O N O N T H E P R O P O S A L S

BY-LAWS:

Bob Johnson, Stephen Marsland, and I will begin work on a written set of by-laws for the PDC. Suggested provisions may be sent to any one of us. Our final draft will be presented to the membership for approval when completed. In the meantime we will operate in the manner that the DD was run. Advisory votes will be taken when the drafting committee can not decide an issue. Progress reports will keep the membership informed of our activities.

Standardized House-rules and other related proposals:

A vote will be taken on each of these points to determine if the PDC should proceed in the directions indicated by these proposals.

Convention sites:

A vote will be taken to determine if more discussion is wanted or if a final draft of the proposed method of selection should be written, now.

Honorary Life Membership for John R. Moot:

A vote will be taken on this proposal.

O T H E R B U S I N E S S

New Appointments:

Law Pulsipher has been appointed Variant Orphan Games Director succeeding P.M. Gaylord to that position. Bob Johnson and Stephen Marsland are appointed to the By-laws Drafting Committee which will be responsible for producing a set of written rules for the operation of the PDC. The Chief of PDC will be the Chairman of that committee.

A request from the Chief:

I would appreciate a short description from each publisher in the PDC of the manner in which his publishing activities and records are organized. These descriptions will form the basis of a series of articles on the current state-of-the-art of Diplomacy publishing. In this way new publishers will be able to avoid some of the difficulties involved in getting started as a publisher.

Director's Reports:

All PDC Directors are requested to submit reports of their project's activities for publication in the next issue of ACHERON. The U.S. Data Center project has transferred publication of TERMINUS to Walter Buchanan. Currently, the USDC is attempting to compile a listing of all postal Diplomacy players and their opponents. A number of difficulties have been discovered ~~xxxx~~ which have delayed the completion of the listing. A primary difficulty is the size of the list involved and the lack of an efficient listing format. Until these difficulties and others are resolved, the opponents listing will not be published.

Diplo-Con V:

Would the members of the PDC like to have an in-person discussion at the Diplo-Con in Chicago this summer? In this way we may be able to reach some conclusions on what the PDC should be attempting to accomplish in the coming year. All members who will be attending the Diplo-Con should notify the Chief so that a list could be sent to the other members also attending. In this way we would all know who we could expect to meet while we're there. I plan to be there and I've heard that a group from San Diego will also be attending. The guys in Youngstown are planning to go and a sizable number of Michigan players should be there.

REPLY SHEET NO. 12

Please return this sheet to Tony Pandin, 10406 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland, O. 44104 before July 7, 1972.

- 1.) Do you feel that the PDC should sponsor the development of a standard procedure for the handling of abandoned positions when no stand-by can be found?

 Yes No No Opinion

- 2.) Do you feel that a general stand-by service should be developed by the PDC to provide all GM's with stand-by players when they are needed?

 Yes No No Opinion

- 3.) Do you feel that the PDC should sponsor the publication of a general information 'zine giving game openings, Diplomacy news, and related information?

Yes No No Opinion

- 4.) Do you feel that the PDC should take over control of PONTEVEDRIA and determine what that magazine should publish?

Yes No No Opinion

- 5.) Should the PDC undertake the task of compiling a standard set of House-rules for postal Diplomacy?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No Opinion

- 6.) If a standard set of House-rules are adopted, should their use be a condition for membership in the PDC?

Yes No No Opinion

- 7.) Should the PDC establish a rating 'zine and require its use by the membership in rating the players in their games?

Yes No No Opinion

- 8.) Please indicate your choice of the following:

No limits on comments and proposals to be published in Acheron

A 25 line (typewritten) limit

Some other limit (specify here _____)

- 9.) Do you approve the granting of an Honorary Life Membership in the PDC to John R. Moot, President of Games Research, Inc.? (2/3 required for approval)

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No Opinion

- 10.) Do you feel that more discussion of the Convention site selection proposal is in order or that a final drafting group should be appointed now?

More discussion Begin final draft

- 11.) Do you approve of the appointment of a by-law drafting committee?

 Yes No No Opinion

Reply sheet no. 12 continued:

Your name _____ Today's date (when mailed) _____

Your comments for publication in the next issue of Acheron (please observe the 25 typewritten lines limit).

ACHERON

c/o Tony Pandin
10406 Shaker Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44104

Please Forward or Return
Address Correction Requested

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